

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SSO-00

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SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /161 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9746

1. MRS MEIR, IN ISRAELI RADIO INTERVIEW DEC. 1, EXPRESSED
HER VIEWS ON BROAD RANGE OF CURRENT ISSUES CONNECTED WITH ARAB-
ISRAELI DISPUTE. EMBASSY SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL TEXT FOLLOWS
(HEADINGS ADDED BY EMBASSY).

2. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES. MRS MEIR SAID
THAT ISRAEL CAME TO KILOMETER 101 TALKS WITH PROPOSALS WHICH
WENT BEYOND WHAT EGYPT COULD HAVE EXPECTED OR DEMANDED IN ORDER
TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT. ISRAEL COULD NOT ACCEPT
EGYPT'S PROPOSALS SINCE THEY WENT BEYOND PURPOSE OF PRESERVING
CEASEFIRE. ISRAEL FOR ITS PART WILL NOT RESUME FIGHTING AND
HOPES THAT EGYPT WON'T WITHER. BREAK IN TALKS AT KILOMETER
101 "MUST NOT BE A REASON FOR NOT GOING" TO GENEVA.

3. PEACE PROSPECTS AND ARAB INTENTIONS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION
WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN ARAB INTENTIONS
IN LAST TWO MONTHS, MRS MEIR REPLIED "I THINK SO -- AT ANY
RATE, A CHANGE IN DIRECTION. AFTER 1967, NASSER WENT TO KHARTOUM
AND CAME BACK WITH THREE NOES: NO RECOGNITION, NO PEACE, NO
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NEGOTIATIONS. THAT WAS WHERE WE STOOD.....NOW, HOWEVER, WITHOUT

EXAGGERATING ABOUT WHAT HAPPEENED AT ALGIERS, THEY HAVE NOT REPEATED THEIR NOES.....". MRS MEIR ADDED THAT ISRAEL "WILL NOT X-RAY ARAB INTENTIONS TO SEE WHAT IS REALLY IN THEIR HEARTS, BUT IT WILL CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN THE HOPE THAT PERHAPS IN THE COURSE OF THIS PROCESS, THEY WILL ARRIVE AT A WILLINGNESS TO LIVE IN PEACE....WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THEY SHOULD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY NEED PEACE NO LESS THAT WE DO."

4. ISRAEL'S MILITARY MISCALCULATION OF ARABS. "WHAT HAPPENED WAS A DISASTER....WE MISINTERPRETED THE INFORMATION WE HAD... OUR MISJUDGMENT LED TO OUR BEING SURPRISED, THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY -- FOR THE ARMY WAS IN A STATE OF FULL ALERTNESS...THIS IS NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION, BOTH IN THE ARMY AND IN THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT..."

5. INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN JEWRY ON US POLICY. MRS MEIR SAID THAT INsofar AS JEWS ARE AWARE OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS THEY ARE OF COURSE INFLUENTIAL, AND THEN ADDED "I WANT TO SAY THIS: THE US HAS SHOWN HERSELF A FRIEND TO ISRAEL IN OUR HOUR OF NEED AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO POINTS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN US IN THE PAST. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALMOST UNNATURAL HAD THIS NOT BEEN SO. I REGRET THAT I CANNOT PROMISE MYSELF AND THE NATION THAT, FROM NOW ON, THE US WILL SEEM ATTEND EXACTLY OUR WAY. EVEN A SMALL NATION HAS THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO INSIST ON MATTERS OF VITAL INTEREST TO HERSELF..."

6. ISRAEL PRESS CRITICISM OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. "I SHOULD SAY IT WAS ALMOST OFFENSIVE -- NOT TO HIM, BUT TO US -- THIS TREND IN ISRAEL, AND THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME IT HAPPENS, TO SINGLE OUT SOME PERSONALITY AND TAKE HIM APART, ANALYZE HIM AND WRITE DISSERTATIONS ABOUT HIM. THIS IS NOT DONE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE IS BEING DONE AN INJUSTICE. THE WAY HE IS TREATED BY SOME PAPERS HERE IS UNJUSTIFIED. DURING THE YEARS OF HIS SERVICE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, AS AN AIDE TO PRESIDENT NIXON, I CAN DEFINITELY SAY THAT THIS MAN DID NOT HARM OUR CAUSE IN ANY WAY. HE IS NOW SECRETARY OF STATE, AND IF WE HAVE OUR DISPUTES, THIS IS LEGITIMATE. I WOULD REALLY ASK PEOPLE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND THERE MAY BE OTHER DISPUTES, EVEN SERIOUS ONES, WITH THE US GOVERNMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND IN SO FAR AS HE REPRESENTS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WE HAVE THOSE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITH HIM. I CAN EVEN VISUALIZE SERIOUS DISPUTES. I CAN EVEN TEL YOU IN CONFIDENCE THAT I MYSELF HAVE HAD SOME."

7. ISRAEL'S ABILITY TO REJECT US PROPOSALS. MRS MEIR POINTED TO SOVIET SUPPORT OF ARABS, NOTING THAT ARABS HAD THEIR REALLY DESTRUCTIVE EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY USSR, AND THAT SINCE END

OF WAR SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPLY SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS WITH EVERYTHING THEY LOST. "THIS IS ON ONE SIDE. ON THE OTHER STANDS THE GREATEST POWER IN THE WORLD: SHE DOES NOT DO EVERYTHING WE WOULD LIKE HER TO DO -- BUT CAN WE DO WITHOUT HER? THERE HAVE BEEN, AND THERE STILL WILL BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, AND WE SHALL HAVE TO JUDGE EACH MATTER ON ITS MERITS....WHEN THE ROGERS PLAN CAME UP WE SAID "NO". ALTHOUGH IT WAS PRESENTED TO US BY THE US, IN ALL FRIENDLINESS WE REFUSED -- AND THE FRIENDSHIP WAS NOT AFFECTED AND WE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE EQUIPMENT AND POLITICAL HELP AND POLITICAL SUPPORT....".

8. TERRITORY VS. SECURITY GUARANTEES. "THERE IS TREND IN THE WORLD TODAY, AND EVEN IN SOME QUARTERS HERE, TO SUBSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR DEFENSIBLE BORDERS....THE PRINCIPLE, I BELIEVE, REMAINS VALID: IN THIS WORLD, TO BE A SMALL NATION THAT CANNOT DEFEND ITSELF, AND IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON GUARANTEES OF OTHERS -- THIS IS FATE I WOULD NOT WISH ON ANY NATION. OUR FRIEND, TRULY OUR FRIEND, IS THE US. ARE THE AMERICANS, AFTER VIETNAM, IN A POSITION TO GUARANTEE OUR SECURITY? HOW? BY SENDING TROOPS?"

9. DISCOURSING FURTHER ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF SECURITY, MRS MEIR ADDED: "ALL OF WESTERN EUROPE IS ORGANIZED WITHIN NATO. AND WITH ALL THE CRITICISM VOICED IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AGAINST THE US, SOME OF WHICH IS QUITE SEVERE, I HAVE YET TO SEE A EUROPEAN STATESMAN WHO WILL AGREE TO THE EVACUATION OF A SINGLE AMERICAN SOLDIER -- THIS AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS NO STATE OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN EUROPEAN NATIONS....IN VIEW OF WHAT THEY BELIEVE MIGHT HAPPEN, THEY FEEL THAT NATO IS NOT ENOUGH -- THEY WANT AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE. (RETURNING TO MAIN SUBJECT, SHE

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CONTINUED:) WHEN WE SAY 'GUARANTEES' -- WHO IS TO GIVE THOSE
GUARANTEES? THE SECURITY COUNCIL? IS IT THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANIZATION THAT WILL GIVE US GUARANTEES? WHEN WE SIGN A
PEACE TREATY, WITH SECURE BORDERS -- SHOULD SOMEONE PROPOSE
SOME FORMULA FOR GUARANTEES, WE SHALL EXAMINE IT. HOWEVER, WE
SHALL NOT ACCEPT THESE IN PLACE OF SECURE BORDERS."

10. CORRECTNESS OF ISRAEL'S INTERWAR POLICIES. MRS MEIR SAID
THAT ISRAEL HAD DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE PEACE WITH-
OUT YIELDING ON POINTS VITAL TO ITS SECURITY. SHE DISAGREED
WITH PROPONENTS OF VIEW THAT RETURN TO 1967 BORDERS AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD HAVE PROVIDED ISRAEL
WITH PEACE. "THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE WAS THAT THERE ARE TWO
STATES IN THE AREA BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN AND IRAQI BORDER:
STATE OF ISRAEL AND JORDAN. THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM MUST BE
SOLVED WITHIN THE AREA EXTENDING TO THE EAST OF ISRAEL AFTER
BORDER BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. THIS IS
WHERE THEY WILL ACHIEVE SELF-EXPRESSION AND ALL THEY WISH FOR --
BECAUSE THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND THERE CONTINUES TO BE, A
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PALESTINIAN MAJORITY IN JORDAN."

11. NO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES. "IF ANYONE CAN PROVE WE HAD ANY
PROSPECTS OF PEACE THAT WE MISSED OUT ON, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN
A CRIME. I CAN STATE WITH A PERFECTLY CLEAR CONSCIENCE THAT
THERE WERE NO SUCH PROSPECTS."

12. SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. MRS MEIR SAID THAT THERE IS NO
CONFUSION OR DOUBT IN HER INNER WORLD, ONLY GRIEF. SHE STATED
THAT SHE FELT NO REGRET ABOUT DECISIONS TAKEN AND THAT SHE
DID NOT REGRET AGREEING TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE, ADDING "I WOULD
BE HAPPY TO BE SET FREE OF THIS BURDEN."
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